

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DUTCH MEDIA REACTION PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADDRESS -
ANNAPOLIS, JUNE 7, 1978

EARLY EVENING, JUNE 7, RADIO AND TV NEWS BULLETINS COVERED THIS SUBJECT FULLY. A VARA (SOCIALIST BROADCASTING SOCIETY) COMMENTATOR STATED OPINION THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SEEMED SO SURE OF S SUPERIOR ARMED STRENGTH THAT IT WOULD SEEM QUITE UNNECESSARY FOR HOLLAND TO INCREASE ITS DEFENSE BUDGET BY 3 PERCENT. NO TV COMMENTARY YET.

ONLY ONE EVENING PAPER - HOLLAND'S LEADING LIBERAL DAILY "NRC HANDELSBLAD" - CARRIED THE STORY YESTERDAY, WITH A MAIN FRONT PAGE HEADLINE IN THIS PAPER. MORNING PAPERS TODAY ALL CARRY IT AS BIG ITEM ON MIDDLE PAGES. FOLLOWING EXTRACTS FROM ONLY MORNING PAPER SO FAR TO CARRY EDITORIAL COMMENT:

"ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD" - INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE - 6.8.1978

"CARTER'S TWO FACES"

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"PRESIDENT CARTER OFFERED THE SOVIET UNION YESTERDAY AN OLIVE BRANCH AND A SWORD AT THE SAME TIME. HIS SPEECH MADE CLEAR HOW CONCERNED HIS GOVERNMENT IS ABOUT THE SOVIET'S PRESENT AGGRESSIVE POLICY IN AFRICA AND ITS EXPANSION OF MILITARY POWER IN EUROPE. NEVER BEFORE HAS THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIMSELF SO CLEARLY AND FRANKLY REGARDING HIS GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN

POLICY. PERHAPS THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN USING HIS FORMER LACK OF CLARITY TO OCCUPY ITSELF WITH VARIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES, BUT NOW IT WILL HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THE LIMITS WHICH HAVE BEEN SET.

IN SPITE OF THE CONCEALED THREAT IN CARTER'S SPEECH, IT WAS SO FORMULATED THAT IT NEED NOT LEAD TO A REVIVAL OF THE COLD WAR. THIS CALM AND DECISIVE SPEECH CAN PROVE TO BE A SALUTORY PRESCRIPTION TO TAME THE PRESUMPTUOUS KREMLIN LEADERS.

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